

Message Text

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ACTION ARA-10

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-04 H-01 INR-07

L-03 NSAE-00 NSC-05 PA-01 PRS-01 SP-02 SS-15

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SUBJ: APRIL 20-24 OFFICIAL VISIT OF ECUADOREAN FOREIGN
MINISTER

REF: 76 MONTEVIDEO A-103

1. BEGIN UNCLASSIFIED. SUMMARY: ECUADOREAN FOREIGN MINISTER DR. JORGE SALVADOR LARA, ACCOMPANIED BY HIGH ECUADOREAN FONOFF AND MILITARY OFFICIALS, WAS IN MONTEVIDEO APRIL 20-24 ON AN OFFICIAL VISIT THAT INCLUDED TALKS WITH HIGH GOU AND LAFTA OFFICIALS. THE HIGHLIGHT OF THE VISIT WAS THE APRIL 22 SIGNING OF A JOINT DECLARATION CALLING FOR REJECTION OF EXTERNAL PRESSURES, BOTH POLITICAL AND ECONOMIC, AND THE SIGNING OF SEPARATE AGREEMENTS LAYING THE GROUNDWORK FOR SCIENTIFIC AND TECHNOLOGICAL COOPERATION, TRADE EXPANSION, AND CLOSER CULTURAL TIES. IN RESPONSE TO PRESS QUESTIONS, SALVADOR LARA COMMENTED FAVORABLY ON PRESIDENT CARTER'S OAS SPEECH AND CRITICIZED LAFTA'S NEGLECT OF NON-TRADE AREAS OF INTEGRATION. ON THE PERSONAL SIDE, SOME URUGUAYAN OFFICIALS WERE PIQUED AT THE MINISTER'S CHRONIC TARDINESS AND FREQUENT PROGRAM CHANGES. END SUMMARY.

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2. AT A PRESS CONFERENCE HELD APRIL 20 SOON AFTER HIS ARRIVAL, ECUADOREAN FOREIGN MINISTER DR. JORGE SALVADOR LARA SAID THAT THE PURPOSE OF HIS VISIT TO URUGUAY WAS TO STRENGTHEN COMMERCIAL, ECONOMIC, AND CULTURAL TIES BETWEEN THE TWO COUNTRIES AND TO GET TO KNOW URUGUAY'S PRESENT LEADERS.

3. WHEN ASKED ABOUT HIS IMPRESSION OF PRESIDENT CARTER'S RECENT SPEECH BEFORE THE OAS, SALVADOR LARA REPLIED THAT CARTER'S BACKING OFF FROM THE INITIAL EXCLUSIVE EMPHASIS ON HUMAN RIGHTS AND HIS ADDITION OF THE PRINCIPLES OF NON-INTERVENTION AND INTERNATIONAL COOPERATION TO HIS POLICY REPRESENTED A SALUTARY CHANGE WHICH WILL FACILITATE INTERCHANGE AND LEAD TO IMPROVEMENT IN TRADITIONAL U.S.-LATIN AMERICAN RELATIONS. HE SAID THAT ALTHOUGH THE CONCEPT OF HUMAN RIGHTS SUSTAINED BY THE USG IS BASED ON CHRISTIAN ETHICS RECOGNIZED BY THE AMERICAN PEOPLES, AN INTERNATIONAL POLICY CANNOT BE BASED EXCLUSIVELY ON HUMAN RIGHTS, WHICH ARE NOT "A CONVENIENT ELEMENT TO DEVELOP A DIALOGUE AND TIES BETWEEN COUNTRIES".

4. WITH REGARD TO LAFTA, SALVADOR LARA SAID THAT THE FUNDAMENTAL CAUSE OF THE OFTEN MENTIONED LAFTA CRISIS IS LAFTA'S EXCLUSIVE CONCERN WITH TRADE PROMOTION WHEREAS IT SHOULD EXTEND ITS INTEGRATION EFFORTS TO OTHER AREAS OF DEVELOPMENT SUCH AS CULTURE AND HEALTH.

5. A JOINT COMMUNIQUE SIGNED APRIL 22 BY THE TWO FOREIGN MINISTERS (A) REJECTED ALL FORMS OF FOREIGN INTERVENTION IN INTERNAL AFFAIRS, (B) UNDERLINED THE NEED TO RECOGNIZE THE POLITICAL INDEPENDENCE AND SOVEREIGNTY OF EACH STATE, (C) CONDEMNED TERRORIST ACTION AND INTERNATIONAL SUBVERSION IN ALL FORMS, (D) EXPRESSED CONCERN FOR THE PROTECTION, PRESERVATION AND IMPROVEMENT OF THE ENVIRONMENT, (E) CALLED FOR COORDINATION OF URUGUAYAN AND ECUADOREAN POSITIONS ON MARITIME POLICY BEFORE INTERNATIONAL ORGANIZATIONS SUCH AS THE UN CONFERENCE ON THE LAW OF THE SEA, AND (F) BACKED STRENGTH-LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

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ENING OF THE OAS AND REFORM OF THE INTER-AMERICAN SYSTEM.

6. IN THE ECONOMIC SPHERE, THE JOINT DECLARATION (A) PROCLAIMED SUPPORT FOR LATIN AMERICAN INTEGRATION THROUGH LAFTA AND SELA, (B) CALLED FOR UNCONDITIONAL ACCESS TO THE MARKETS OF DEVELOPED COUNTRIES AND THE LIFTING OF TRADE BARRIERS, (C) CREATED AN URUGUAYAN-ECUADOREAN COMMISSION FOR COORDINATION AND COOPERATION TO PROMOTE ECONOMIC GROWTH AND CONSOLIDATE THEIR RESPECTIVE ECONOMIES WITHIN THE LAFTA FRAMEWORK, AND (D) CALLED FOR COOPERATION IN TRANSPORT, LABOR MATTERS, INVESTMENT PROMOTION, AND TOURISM.

7. ALTHOUGH NOTES WERE EXCHANGED TO EXPAND RECIPROCAL TRADE, LISTS OF PRODUCTS ON WHICH TARIFFS WOULD BE REMOVED BY THE RESPECTIVE COUNTRIES INCLUDE ONLY NINE NEW PRODUCTS, INDICATING MINIMAL PROGRESS IN THE TRADE AREA (SEE REPAIR).

8. A SCIENTIFIC AND TECHNOLOGICAL COOPERATION AGREEMENT SIGNED BY THE TWO COUNTRIES PROVIDES FOR TECHNICAL STUDIES

TO IDENTIFY AREAS IN WHICH BINATIONAL INDUSTRIES COULD BE
ESTABLISHED, JOINT RESEARCH PROJECTS, ORGANIZATION OF SEMINARS
AND CONFERENCES, AND THE EXCHANGE OF INFORMATION AND TECHNICIANS.
END UNCLASSIFIED.

9. BEGIN LIMITED OFFICIAL USE. ONE GOE FONMINISTRY MEMBER
OF THE VISITING GROUP TOLD EMBOFF THAT HUMAN RIGHTS WERE
BROUGHT UP IN A MULTILATERAL CONTEXT DURING DISCUSSIONS BUT
NOT BILATERALLY AS BETWEEN GOU AND US. SOURCE COMMENTED THAT
GOE DID NOT HAVE SAME PROBLEM, ADDING THAT REFERENCES TO INTER-
VENTION, POLITICAL INDEPENDENCE AND SOVEREIGNTY IN JOINT
COMMUNIQUE SHOULD NOT BE INTERPRETED AS IMPLYING GOE SUPPORT
FOR GOU HUMAN RIGHTS PROBLEMS. HE SAID HE VIEWED THESE REFER-
ENCES AS USUAL LANGUAGE FOR SUCH COMMUNIQUE AND CLAIMED THAT
MUCH OF FINAL COMMUNIQUE HAD IN FACT BEEN DRAFTED IN QUITO
BEFORE GROUP'S DEPARTURE. VISIT WAS NOT A GREAT SUCCESS IN
PERSONAL TERMS IN URUGUAYAN EYES. MINISTER
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SALVADOR LARA APPEARED SOME 45 MINUTES LATE AT A RECEPTION IN
HIS HONOR GIVEN BY FONMIN ROVIRA (AND AFTER RECEIVING LINE HAD BROKEN
UP) AND FONOFF SOURCES SAID HE WAS A CHRONIC
LATE ARRIVAL AND CHANGED HIS PROGRAM FREQUENTLY, SOME-
TIMES WITHOUT INFORMING HOST COUNTRY OFFICIALS.
HAAHR

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